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forefathers rest. There is St. David's, or *Lanvace Church*, over the water, for the inhabitants of that part of the town, and there is service once every Sunday in the College. This town contains many Dissenters, and they have four places of worship, which are well attended; the service is mostly in Welsh, except among the Wesleyans. In the churches the service is generally English, in St. Mary's entirely so, and in St. John's and St. David's alternately. Here, as in some other towns of South Wales, the English language has increased of late, although it cannot be admitted, that the Welsh has diminished to the extent that has been affirmed, though it has few admirers among the more respectable part of the inhabitants\*.

There are pleasant walks about Brecon, either down the Watton Street out of town, along the Monmouthshire road, or by the side of the Navigation. *The Captain's Walk* is a fashionable promenade, but in summer time the walks in the Priory Grove are the general resort. The river Honddy gurgling below, the road on the other side, and the ground irregularly rising above, add to the pleasantness of the walk, and take off from the solitariness. Proceeding forward, the scenery varies, and the roaming student may lose himself in total exclusion from society, until he arrives at the Old Forge, and he may then cross the water, and walk by the side of the Pond, or return to Brecon a different way over the fields.

We shall at present defer our observations, until we have noticed those parts of the County which as yet we have not adverted to.

I remain, Sir,

With great respect,

IEUAN.

#### LETTER VI.

*Vicinity of Brecon—Gaer—Caer Bannau—Roman Bath—Cistvaen—Cadair Arthur—Penpont—Einion Sais—Trecastle.*

SIR,—The vicinity of Brecon, which way soever you turn, is interesting. We have already noticed the Priory Grove, but, if the stranger wishes to visit the village of Battel, he

\* We regret to hear this unnational account of the good people of Brecon, but hope, that the ensuing *Eisteddvod* will introduce our native tongue a little more to their favour.—ED.

should notice the seat of the Rev. Thomas Watkins, which, after his father Penoyre Watkins, Esq. he has called Penoyre. Battel is pleasantly situated, and has a chapel of ease under Aberystin. In this neighbourhood is Gaer, a Roman station, the *Parent of Brecon*, and supposed to be the residence of Bleddyn ab Maenarch, the Lord of this Country, previous to the Norman Conquest. Gaer was a Roman station of some importance, as appears from the trace of Roman roads leading to it, and Mr. Jones, in his history, has noticed some antiquities contiguous to it. The estate of Gaer continued, it would appear, in the possession of the lineal descendants of Bleddyn ab Maenarch, until the year 1561, soon after which it was sold by the daughter and heiress of William John Prosser to Roger second son of Sir David Williams the Judge. The last of the Williams's of Gaer was Miss Rachael Williams, who married Mr. Meyrick, Solicitor, of Merthyr.

Caer Bannau, two miles below Brecon, in the Parish of Llanvrynach, was, if not a station, a place of some note. In the year 1783 the remains of a Roman Bath were discovered upon Pen y Pentre Farm in that neighbourhood, and in the history of Brecknockshire a fine plate is given of it, from a drawing made by Captain Hay, of Brecon, as well as of a considerable number of Roman coins. On the discovery of a remarkable *cistvaen* there Mr. Jones has given the following parody\* :—

Perhaps in this neglected spot was laid  
 A heart once pregnant with heroic fire ;  
 A hand, which Cambria's sceptre erst has sway'd,  
 And roused indignantly the Briton's ire.  
 Perhaps a Cradoc, who, with dauntless breast,  
 The mighty tyrants of the world withstood,  
 Who sunk, though not inglorious, here to rest,  
 And nobly seal'd his duty with his blood.

\* Mr. Jones, in the following parody, appears to have thought that the *cistvaen* was used for sepulchral purposes. The fact, however, we believe, is extremely doubtful. Mr. Llwyd, in his "Additions" to the Welsh Counties in Camden's *Britannia*, notices several *cistreini* in different parts of Wales, but expresses his doubts as to their primitive use, yet does not seem to consider them as sepulchral. He mentions one, indeed, in Caermarthenshire, in which some bones were found, but supposes they were only "brought there by foxes." Whatever was the original design of the *cistvaen*, it is, no doubt, a monument of high antiquity, and to be referred, most probably, to the Druidical ages.—ED.

The traveller in Spring or Autumn may join a party and mount to the top of Cadair Arthur, from whence, if the day be favourable, he will be amply gratified for his fatigue in ascending the Alps of South Wales. The whole of ancient Siluria, the Bristol Channel, from King Road, or Severn Mouth, to Mumble Head near Swansea, will appear before him. Bristol is not discernible, although part of Somersetshire may be seen. In a contrary direction the attention is drawn to the Malvern Hills. The ascent is not extremely difficult, and some persons ride all the way. On descending to the town and reposing there, an excursion may be taken along the Caermarthenshire road, the scenery of which part of the country abounds with fine views. Passing through the village of Lanspythid \*, and mounting an elevated part of the road, Penpont house and grounds appear to great advantage, particularly after the improvements made by the present proprietor, Philip Williams, Esq. Near here lived Einion Sais, the ancestor of the Gams or Gameses, once the most powerful family in this country, but now there is no gentleman of the name. On the side of the road is Penpont Chapel, a neat structure, decorated in a style of rural elegance; and farther on is the house of the Rev. Canon Williams, of Abercamlais, a branch of the Penpont family, descended from Sir Lawrence Bullen, who may be traced to Sir Thomas Bullen, one of the knights who accompanied Bernard de Newmark into this country, and from whom was descended Sir Thomas Bullen, of Norfolk, the ancestor of Queen Ann Bullen, the mother of Queen Elizabeth.

The traveller may proceed to Trecastle, ten miles from Brecon, when he enters upon a ruder track of country, and still more so until he comes near to Llandovery, near to which this county reaches. From Trecastle the pleasant village of Devynog or Devynnoc may be visited, and from thence the most romantic excursions may be made over the hills to Ystradvelly and Pontneathvaughan †, on the confines of Gla-

\* Here tradition states that Brychan, Prince of the Country, was interred, and the stone is shewn in the church-yard, under which he is said to have been buried.

† Is this correct, or ought it not rather to be *Pont Nedd Vechan*? As we do not speak, however, from any local knowledge, we may be wrong.—ED.

morganshire, where rude romantic rocks and water-falls present themselves, until the roaming tourist, tired of highland scenes, may pass through the vale of Neath into Glamorganshire, or go over to see the works of Merthyr Tidvil, and return from thence to Brecon. I refer the reader to Mr. Jones and to the tourists for farther observations on that part of the county, and shall in my next conduct him from Brecon to the extremity of the county on the eastern side.

I remain, Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

IEUAN.

#### LETTER VII.

*Mountainous Country—Town of Brecon—Ancient State—Modern Improvements—The King's Visit.*

SIR,—In coming into Brecon from Merthyr, or from Neath, there is a pleasure felt by one not fond of Alpine scenes, especially in stormy weather, to find himself once more in a low-land district. The sons of the valley shudder at the storm, and dread the spirits of the mountain, and gladly welcome the fire-side. Even at this season of the year, we are pleased with a mountain ride rather for the pleasure of surveying the cultivated country, and admiring the contrast of hill and dale. Whatever objection be made to a mountainous country, it has certain advantages, as it respects both pleasure and health, and, what most esteem a matter of consequence, opulence; for among our hills are found Shepherd Kings and Iron Kings, as well as persons of inferior note, who are healthy, and wealthy, and wise.

To speak once more of the town, Brecon is a borough town, from the first date of the incorporation of England and Wales. For ages it had been a separate jurisdiction, subject to its own Lord Marcher, the last of whom fell by his ambition, or at least by fondly presuming on his claim to the gratitude of the Tudors, on his father's account. A similar instance was exhibited in the son of Sir Rhys ap Thomas. Both of these young noblemen fell victims to the displeasure of the tyrannic Henry the Eighth, whose father had been raised to the throne by the exertions of their family.

The improvements made in the present town within the last thirty or forty years, whether as to general appearance or pub-